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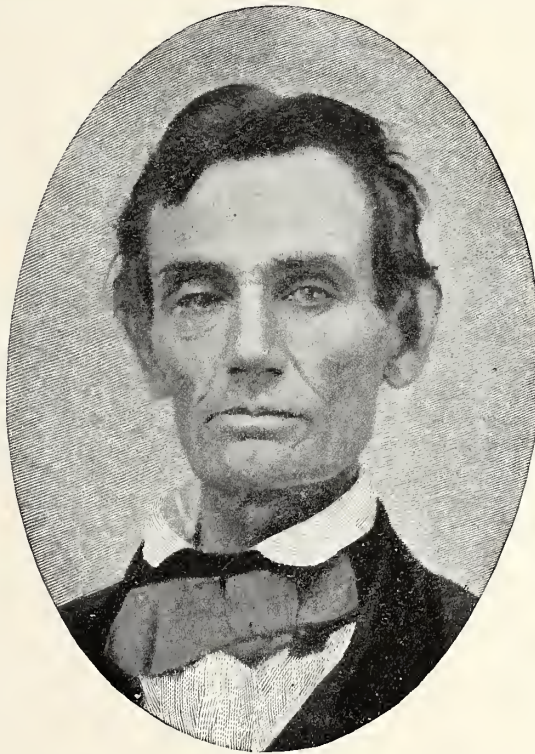
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

EDITED BY IDA M. TARBELL.

EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

IT is certainly a remarkable fact that only once before has a magazine undertaken to publish a Life of Abraham Lincoln. Editors have eagerly explored the whole world for subjects, themes have been worn threadbare, and yet the greatest of subjects has for some inscrutable reason been overlooked, excepting in a fragmentary way. The Life of Lincoln here begun will in no sense be a rival to the great and monumental work of Messrs. Nicolay and Hay. Theirs was "Abraham Lincoln: A

History;" ours is to be Abraham Lincoln the Man. One-fourth of theirs was devoted to the first fifty years of Lincoln's career; three-fourths of the McCLURE'S Life will be occupied with the story of Lincoln's first fifty years.



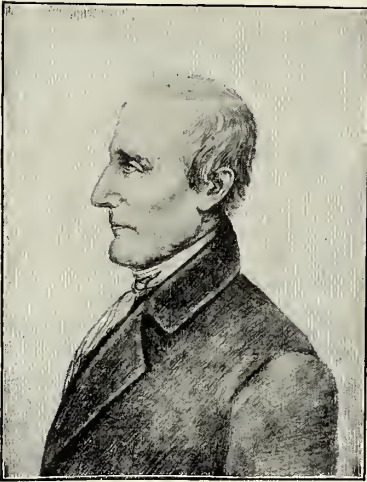
LINCOLN IN 1858.

From a pictorial standpoint this Life of Lincoln will be unique. Our frontispiece is the only portrait of Lincoln showing him with a young face. We shall publish fully twice as many portraits of Lincoln as have ever appeared in any Life, and we shall illus-

From a photograph loaned by W. J. Franklin of Macomb, Illinois, and taken in 1866 from an ambrotype made in 1858 in Macomb. This portrait figures in the collection in the Lincoln Home at Springfield, Illinois, and on the back of the photograph is the following inscription: "This likeness of Abraham Lincoln is a faithful copy of an original ambrotype, now in possession of James K. Magie. It was taken August 25, 1858, by Mr. T. P. Pierson, at Macomb, in this State, and is believed to be of anterior date to any other likeness of Mr. Lincoln ever brought before the public. Mr. Magie happened to remain over night at Macomb at the same hotel with Mr. Lincoln, and the next morning took a walk about town, and upon Mr. Magie's invitation they stepped into Mr. Pierson's establishment, and the ambrotype of which this is a copy was the result. Mr. Lincoln, upon entering, looked at the camera as though he was unfamiliar with such an instrument, and then remarked: 'Well, do you want to take a shot at me with that thing?' He was shown to a glass, where he was told to 'fix up,' but declined, saying it would not be much of a likeness if he fixed up any. The old neighbors and acquaintances of Mr. Lincoln in Illinois, upon seeing this picture, are apt to exclaim: 'There! that's the best likeness of Mr. Lincoln that I ever saw!' The dress he wore in this picture is the same in which he made his famous canvass with Senator Douglas." This inscription was written by J. C. Power, now dead, but for many years custodian of the Lincoln monument in Springfield.

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I do hereby certify that by Authority of Licence
 Issued from the Clerks Office of Washington Co I
 have solemnized the rites of Matrimony between
 Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, June
 12th 1806 A. D. agreeable to the rites and ceremonies
 of the Methodist Episcopal Church witness
 my hand
 Jesse Head D. E. M. C.



THE REV. JESSE HEAD.

From an original drawing in the possession of R. T. Durrett of Louisville, Kentucky. The Rev. Jesse Head was a Methodist preacher of Washington County, Kentucky, who married Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. Christopher Columbus Graham, who was at the wedding and who knew Mr. Head well, says: "Jesse Head, the good Methodist preacher who married them, was also a carpenter or cabinet-maker by trade, and, as he was then a neighbor, they were good friends. He had a quarrel with the bishops and was an itinerant for several years, but an editor and county judge afterwards, in Harrodsburg. . . . The preacher, Jesse Head, often talked to me on religion and politics, for I always liked the Methodists. I have thought it might have been as much from his free-spoken opinions as from Henry Clay's American-African colonization scheme, in 1817, that I lost a likely negro man, who was leader of my musicians. . . . But Jesse Head never encouraged any runaway, nor had any 'underground railroad.' He only talked freely and boldly, and had plenty of true Southern men with him, such as Clay."—H. W. CLEVELAND, in *unpublished interview with Christopher Columbus Graham*.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE OF THOMAS LINCOLN AND NANCY HANKS.

From the original in the possession of Henry Whitney Cleveland of Louisville, Kentucky.

trate the scenes of Lincoln's career on a scale never before attempted.

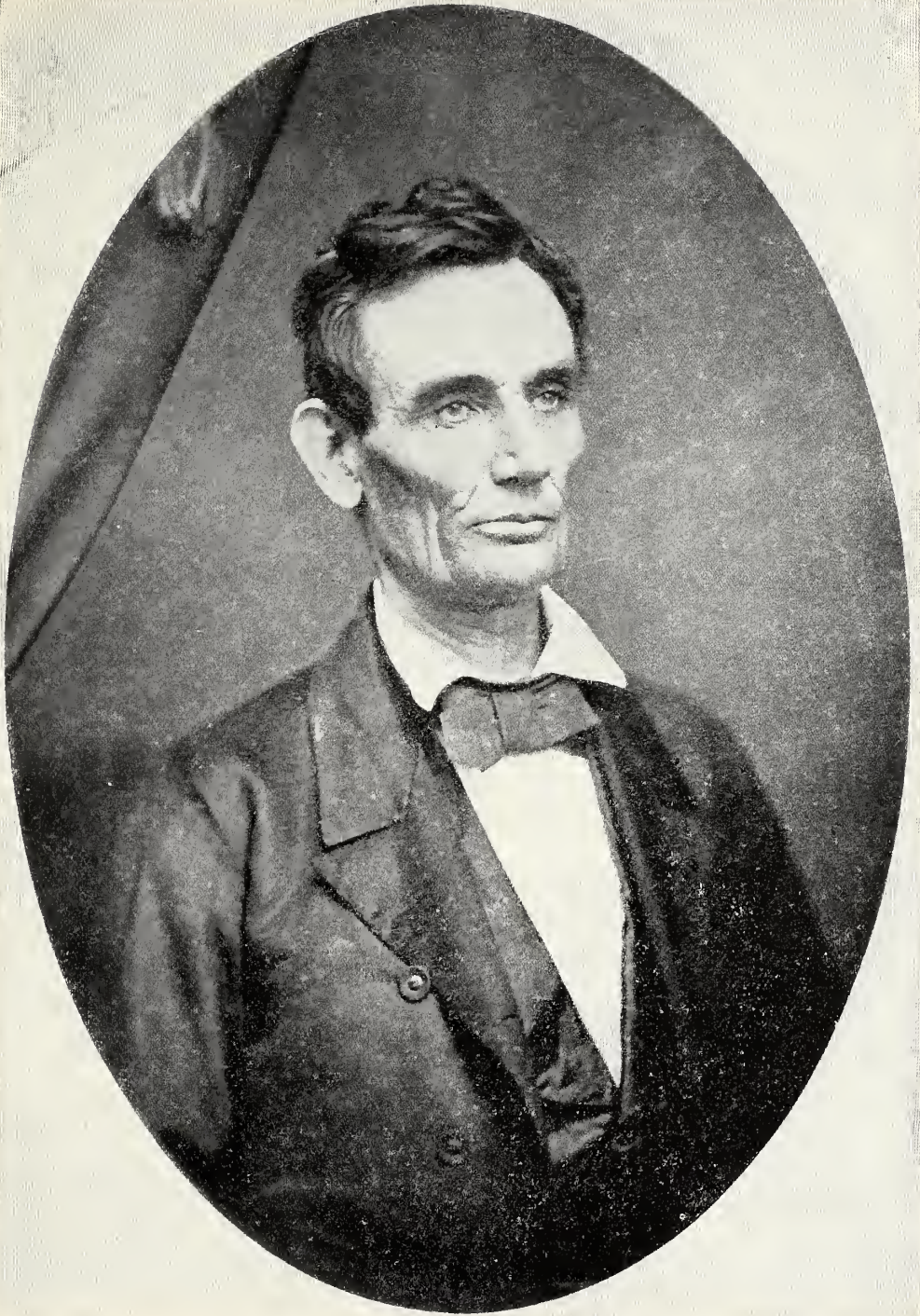
The method of preparing this Life is also unique. As far as possible the story of each period of Lincoln's career will be told by the persons most competent, either from personal association, or by special study, to relate it. Miss Tarbell directs each writer, and herself furnishes connecting links for the narrative. By this means accuracy, local color, and, in many cases, facts absolutely new are secured.

The text and the pictures of this first article, however, are the best exposition of our plans, and the best indication of what we intend to do.

LINCOLN'S BOYHOOD IN KENTUCKY AND INDIANA.

"THE short and simple annals of the poor" was Abraham Lincoln's own characterization of his early life. It is a characterization true as well of the lives of his father and mother, and of all his ancestors as far back as we are able with any certainty to follow them. For our present purpose it is not necessary to trace these ancestors farther back than the paternal grandfather, one Abraham Lincoln, who, towards the close of the last century, fell under the spell of the adventurous spirit of his friend Daniel Boone, and left his home in Rockingham County, Virginia, in 1780 or thereabouts, to move into Kentucky, where he took up four hundred acres of land in Jefferson County, twenty miles east of Louisville. In 1784 Abraham Lincoln was killed by Indians, leaving his wife and five children to shift for themselves. The youngest of these children, a lad of six years at that time, was called Thomas.

The death of the father was sad for this child,



LINCOLN IN 1858.

From a photograph in the possession of Mr. Stuart Brown of Springfield, Illinois. Mr. Milton Hay of Springfield, an intimate friend of Mr. Lincoln's, considered this the most perfect likeness made of Mr. Lincoln before he went to Washington. It is supposed to have been taken in 1858 in Hannibal, Missouri.



HOUSE NEAR BEECHLAND, KENTUCKY, WHERE THOMAS LINCOLN AND NANCY HANKS WERE MARRIED.

From a photograph in the collection of O. H. Oldroyd, preserved in the house in which Lincoln died, Washington, D. C.



VIEW OF ROCK SPRING FARM, WHERE PRESIDENT LINCOLN WAS BORN.

From a photograph taken in September, 1895, for McClure's Magazine. The house in which Lincoln was born is seen to the right in the background. Rock Spring is in a hollow under the clump of trees in the left centre of the picture.

for it turned him adrift to become a "wandering laboring-boy" before he had learned even to read. For twenty-two years he went about from place to place, doing many kinds of rough farm work, as well as learning indifferently well the trade of a carpenter and cabinet-maker; though undoubtedly he was, as one of his old acquaintances said, "a good carpenter for those days, when a cabin was built mainly with the axe, and not a nail or bolt-hinge in it; only leathers and pins to the door, and no glass, except in watches and spectacles and bottles. Tom had the best set of tools in what was then and now Washington County."* He never became a thrifty or ambitious man. "He would work energetically enough when a job was brought to him," said one of his old acquaintances, "but he would never seek a job." He was absolutely illiterate, never doing more "in the way of writing than to bunglingly write his own name." Nevertheless, he had the reputation of having, as one of his nephews, J. L. Nall, says, "good, strong horse-sense;" and Dennis Hanks declares he was a man of the strongest determination when his mind was made up; besides, he was good-natured and obliging, "a very quiet sort of man," says Mr. Nall, moral—and, in the crude way of the pioneer, he was religious.

When twenty-eight years old, Thomas Lincoln married. His wife, Nancy Hanks by name, was, like her husband, a Virginian, and, like him, of a "second-rate family." Her experience in life had, too, been similar to her husband's, for the Hanks family had been drawn into Kentucky by the fascination of Boone as had the Lincolns. But it was only in her surroundings and her family that Nancy Hanks was like Thomas Lincoln. In nature, in education, and in ambition she was, if tradition is to be believed, quite another person. Certainly a fair and delicate woman, who could read and write, who had ideas of refinement and a desire to get more from life than fortune had allotted her, was hardly enough like Thomas Lincoln to be a suitable wife for him. She was still more unfit to be his wife because of a sensitive nature which made her brood over her situation—a situation made the more hopeless by the fact that she had neither the force of character nor strength of body to do anything to improve it; if, indeed, she had any clear notion of what it lacked.

Thomas and Nancy Lincoln were married near Beechland, in Washington County,

*Christopher Columbus Graham, as reported by H. W. Cleveland in an interview held in 1884, in Mr. Graham's hundredth year, and never before published.

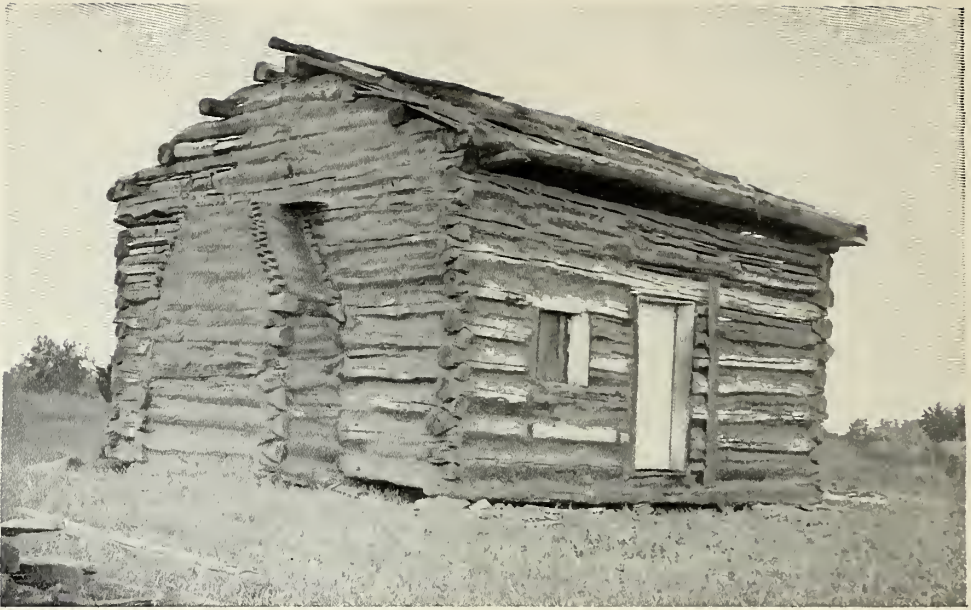


Portrait reproduced by permission of The Century Company.

AUSTIN GOLLAHER.

Austin Gollaher is the only person now living who was a friend and associate of Abraham Lincoln during the latter's boyhood life in Kentucky. Mr. Gollaher is now ninety years of age; his entire life has been spent within a short distance of Lincoln's birthplace. In a quiet and simply furnished home, located on a small stream known as Knob Creek, the old gentleman struggles with increasing physical infirmity. His mind remains sound and bright. Mr. Gollaher is a man of the highest standing in the community and possesses the respect of all his neighbors. His reputation for veracity is of the best. Nothing pleases him more than to relate incidents of his childhood, when he was acquainted with the Lincolns and other pioneers.—D. J. THOMAS, on *The Boyhood of Lincoln*.

Kentucky, on June 12, 1806. There was still living in 1884, in his hundredth year, an old man, Christopher Columbus Graham, who was present at this wedding. "I was out hunting roots for my medicines," he told an interviewer, "and just went to the wedding to get a good supper, and got it. I saw Nancy Hanks Lincoln at her wedding; a fresh-looking girl, I should say over twenty. I was at the infare, too, given by John H. Parrott, her guardian, and only girls with money had guardians appointed by the court. We had bear meat, . . . venison, wild turkey and ducks, eggs wild and tame—so common that you could buy them at two bits a bushel—maple sugar swung on a string to bite off for coffee or whiskey, syrup in big gourds, peach-and-honey, a sheep that the two families barbecued whole over coals of wood burned in a



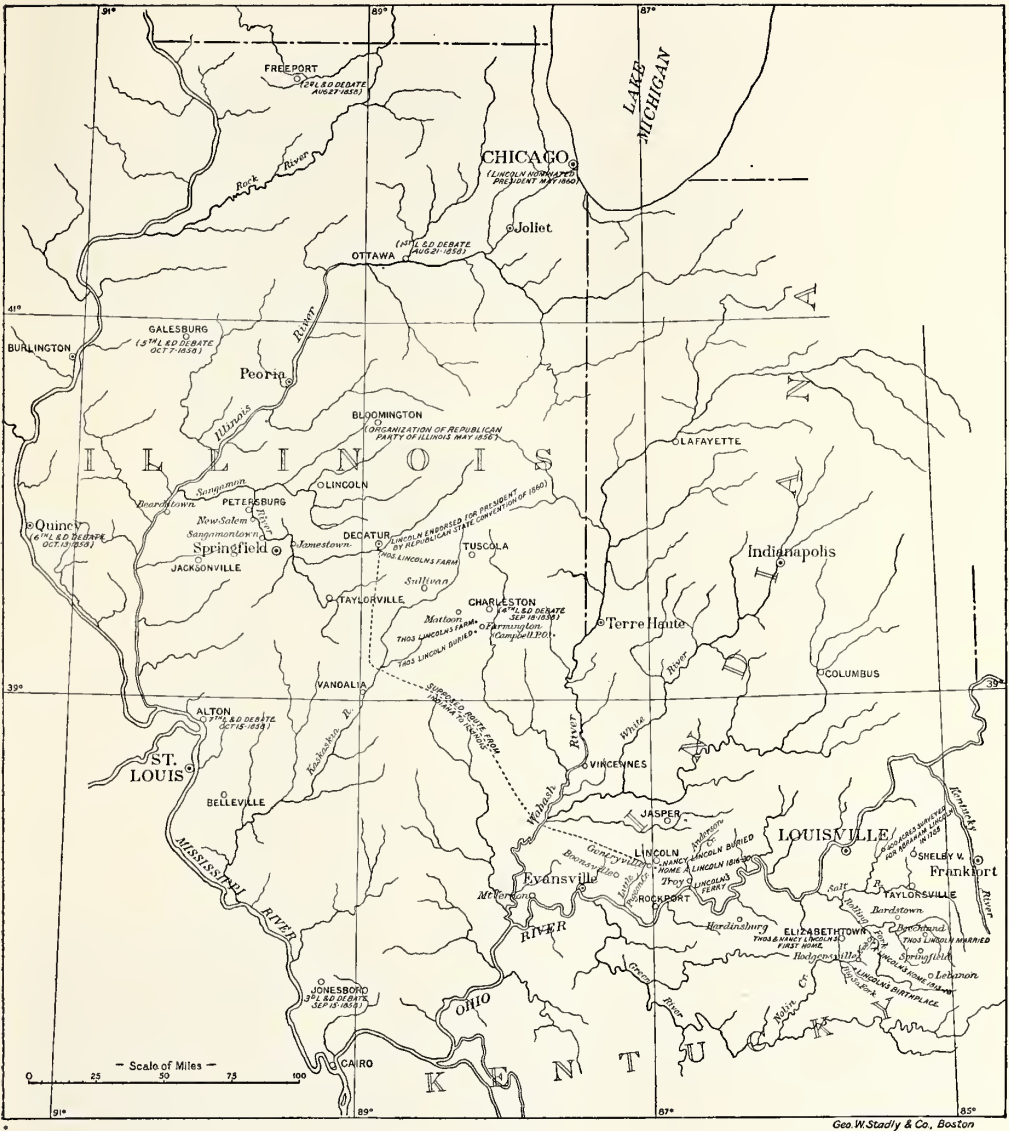
HOUSE IN WHICH ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS BORN.

Thomas Lincoln moved into this cabin on the Big South Fork of Nolin Creek, three miles from Hodgenville, in La Rue County, Kentucky, in 1808; and here, on February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born. In 1813 the Lincolns removed to Knob Creek. The Nolin Creek farm has been known as the "Creal Farm" for many years from its occupant, Mrs. Richard Creal, but recently it was bought by New York people. The cabin was long ago torn down, but the logs were saved. The new owner, in August, 1895, rebuilt the old cabin on the original site. This, the first and only picture which has been taken of it, was made for this magazine.



ROCK SPRING ON THE FARM WHERE LINCOLN WAS BORN.

From a photograph taken in September, 1895, for McClure's Magazine. The spring is in a hollow, at the foot of the gentle slope on the top of which the house stands.



MAP SHOWING POINTS OF INTEREST IN LINCOLN'S EARLY LIFE. MADE SPECIALLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE.

The above map shows where Abraham Lincoln's grandfather first took land in Kentucky, where his father and mother were married, where they first lived, where he was born, and where he lived from 1813 to 1816. It shows the Rolling Fork, Salt River, and the Ohio, which Thomas Lincoln followed in going into Indiana; the new home in Indiana; the point where Lincoln kept the ferry; Boonsville, where he went to hear trials; the Little Pigeon Creek in which he fished and swam; the grave of his mother; the route by which it is supposed he went into Illinois. (The route of the early settler was to take the route by which the most watercourses would be avoided. It is supposed that the Lincolns would have crossed the Wabash at the point indicated rather than to have gone to Vincennes and taken the old post route which ran west from that point. We know that they entered Decatur from the south, following nearly the present route of the main line of the Illinois Central. That much Mr. Lincoln once told to Mr. H. C. Whitney when the two were in Decatur. Mr. Whitney gives this conversation with Mr. Lincoln in full in his "Life on the Circuit with Lincoln.") The map shows both of Thomas Lincoln's farms in Illinois, and his grave. Sangamon, New Salem, Vandalia, Springfield, and the chief places where Mr. Lincoln practised in the circuit are shown, as well as the points where the Lincoln and Douglas debates and the important political events of the campaign of 1860 took place.

pit, and covered with green boughs to keep the juices in, and a race for the whiskey bottle. . . . Our table was of the puncheons cut from solid logs."

Marriage compelled the restless Thomas to locate at last. His first home was a poor little cabin in Elizabethtown, and here he remained until after the birth of his first

child, a daughter, when he took land for a farm on Big South Fork of Nolin Creek, in what is now La Rue County, three miles from Hodgenville. Here he was living when, on February 12, 1809, his second child, a boy, was born. The little newcomer was called Abraham, after his grandfather—a name which had persisted through many preceding generations of the Lincolns.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S INDIANA HOME.

After an old photograph showing the cabin as it appeared in 1869. Thomas Lincoln built this house in 1817, and moved into it about a year after he reached his farm. At first it had neither windows, door, nor floor; but after the advent of Sally Bush Lincoln it was greatly improved. When he decided to leave Indiana he was preparing the lumber for a better house.



LINCOLN FARM IN INDIANA.

Present appearance of the quarter section of government land in Spencer County, Indiana, entered by Thomas Lincoln, October 15, 1817, view looking east. Thomas Lincoln selected this tract in 1816, and, to identify it, he blazed the trees and piled up brush at the corners to establish boundary lines. When he returned with his family he was obliged to cut his way to the spot chosen for his cabin and to fell trees to find space for the "half-face camp" in which he first lived. This land was entered under the old credit system. Later Mr. Lincoln gave up to the United States the east half, and the amount paid on it was passed to his credit to complete paying for the west half. The patent issued for the latter tract was dated June 6, 1827. The above picture is from a photograph taken for this Magazine.



SARAH BUSH LINCOLN.

From a photograph in the possession of her granddaughter, Mrs. Harriet Chapman of Charleston, Illinois. Sarah Bush was born in Kentucky, December 13, 1788. She was a friend and companion of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, and it is said that Thomas Lincoln asked her first to marry him, but that she preferred Daniel Johnston. Her husband died before Thomas Lincoln lost his wife, in October of 1818. In November, 1819, Thomas Lincoln went to Kentucky to seek her a second time in marriage. An incident of the courtship is told in a private letter from Mr. J. L. Nall, a cousin of President Lincoln's: "I have recently spent a few days in Elizabethtown, the old Kentucky home of Uncle Thomas Lincoln. While there I had a long talk with my old friend Hon. S. H. Bush, who is a nephew of President Lincoln's step-mother. He told me that when Uncle Thomas came back after the death of his first wife, Nancy Hanks, and proposed marriage to his aunt, who was then a widow Johnston, she told him she would be perfectly willing to marry him, as she had known him a long time, and felt that the marriage would be congenial and happy, but it would be impossible for her to even think of marrying and leaving the State, as she was considerably in debt, and she could not think of leaving the State while in debt. Uncle Thomas told her that need make no difference, as he had plenty of money, and would take care of her financial affairs; and when he had ascertained the amount of her indebtedness and the names of the parties to whom the money was due, he went around and redeemed all her paper and presented it to her, and told her, when she showed so much honor about debts, he was more fully satisfied than ever that she would make him a good wife. She said, as he had displayed so much generosity in her behalf, she was willing then to marry and go with him to Spencer County, Indiana. This second wife of Thomas Lincoln has a vast relationship living in this (Hardin) county, among them the nephew from whom the above was obtained; also a niece, Mrs. M. H. Cofer, whose husband died a few years ago, and was, at the time of his death, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Kentucky. She has also a nephew, Hon. W. P. D. Bush, at Frankfort, Kentucky; and one, Hon. Robert Bush, at Hawesville, Kentucky. The men rank among the best lawyers in Kentucky." Sarah Bush Lincoln changed the character of the Lincoln home completely when she entered it, and there is no question of the importance of her influence upon the development of her step-son Abraham. She was a woman of great natural dignity and kindliness, and highly esteemed by all who knew her. She died on the 10th of April, 1869.



BUCKTHORN VALLEY, WHERE LINCOLN WORKED AND HUNTED.

After a photograph made for McClure's Magazine. In this valley are located nearly all the farms on which Lincoln worked in his boyhood, including the famous Crawford place, where he and his sister Sarah were both employed as "help." Visitors to the locality have pointed out to them numberless items associated with his early life—fields he helped to clear and till, fences he built, houses he repaired, wells he dug, paths he walked, playgrounds he frequented. Indeed, the inhabitants of Buckthorn Valley take the greatest pride, and very properly, in Lincoln's connection with it.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S LIFE IN KENTUCKY.

The home into which the child came was a poor one. The cabin was not "the picturesque, vine-clad one of the story-books," says a resident of the country who has followed in detail the scenes of the President's early life,* "but one standing out in a clearing, with only one small room, a door, but no window, a stick chimney, with open cracks through which swept the winds, the rain, the snows of winter, and the swarms of mosquitoes in summer. . . . We take an inventory of the furniture of that cabin: bunks, the mattress of dry leaves, the slab stools, the open fireplace. We note the absence of even the necessities of life—neither stove, window,

nor floor." The only one of Mr. Lincoln's early acquaintances now living, Mr. Austin Gollaher, said to a representative of this Magazine, in describing the poverty of these early surroundings:

"At the time of Abraham's birth his



THE OLD SWIMMING HOLE.

A secluded part of Little Pigeon Creek, not far from Gentryville, where Lincoln, Dennis Hanks, John Johnston, the Gentry boys, and others of the neighborhood used to bathe. It is still pointed out as "the place where Abe went in swimming."

* Unpublished MS. by A. Hoosier of Vincennes, Indiana.

father was away from home. Some of her neighbors who were with Mrs. Lincoln at the event learned that she was destitute of anything in the nature of food. Some of the ladies called upon Judge William Cessna, one of the most prominent men of that time in this section, in Mrs. Lincoln's behalf, and he donated flour and other articles of food."

The picture is dark, but, fortunately, there are those who remember pleasanter things about it. Christopher Columbus Graham, whose statements have already been quoted, says of some of the stories of the poverty in Thomas Lincoln's family:

"It is all stuff about Tom Lincoln keeping his wife in an open shed in a winter when the wild animals left the woods and stood in the corners next the stick-and-clay chimneys, so as not to freeze to death; or, if climbers, got on the roof. The Lincolns had a cow and calf, milk and butter, a good feather bed, for I have slept in it while they took the buffalo robes on the floor, because I was a doctor. They had home-woven 'kiverlids,' big and little pots, a loom and wheel; and William Hardesty, who was there too, can say with me that Tom Lincoln was a man, and took care of his wife."

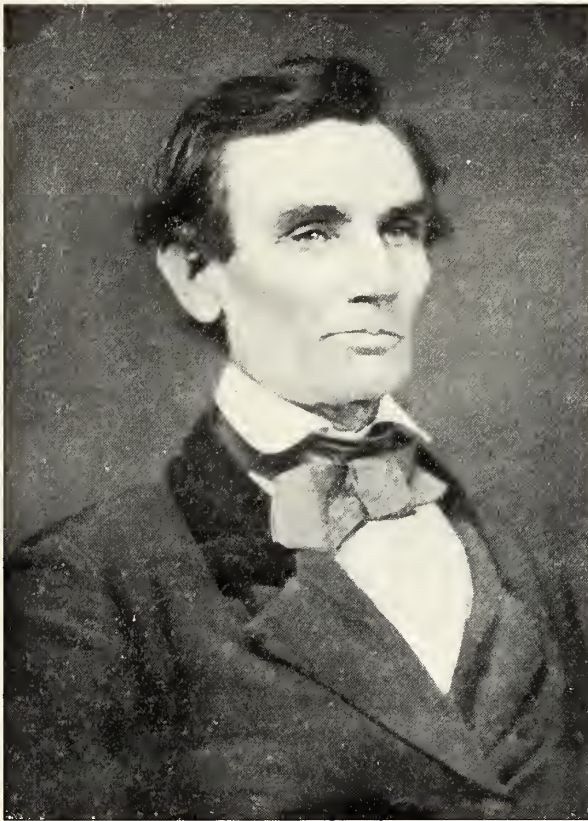
However poor the Lincoln home may have been, it affected the new child but little. He was robust and active; and life is full of interest to the child happy enough

to be born in the country. He had several companions. There was his sister Nancy, or Sarah—both names are given her—two years his senior; there was a cousin of his mother's, ten years older, Dennis Hanks, an active and ingenious leader in sports and mischief; and there were the neighbors' boys. One of the latter, Austin Gollaher,

still tells with pleasure of how he hunted coons and ran the woods with young Lincoln, and once even saved his life.

"Yes," said Mr. Gollaher; "the story that I once saved Abraham Lincoln's life is true, but it is not correct as generally related.

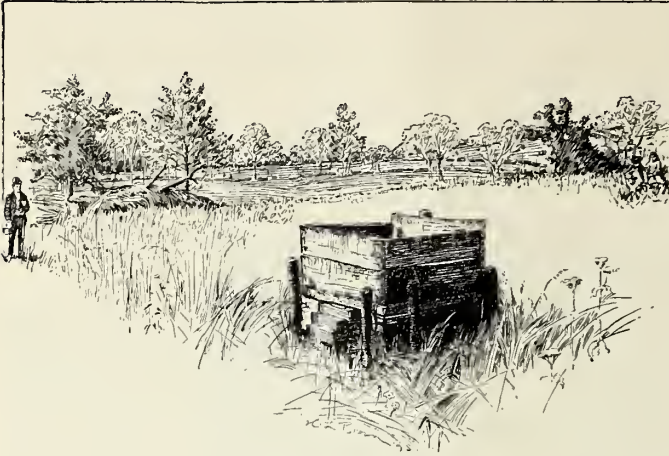
"Abraham Lincoln and I had been going to school together for a year or more, and had become greatly attached to each other. Then school disbanded on account of there being so few scholars, and we did not see each other much for a long while. One Sunday my mother visited the Lincolns, and I was taken



MR. LINCOLN IN 1857.

After a photograph owned by H. C. Whitney. In the fall of 1857 Mr. Lincoln was in Urbana, Illinois, and went into the photograph gallery of a Mr. Alschuler to have an ambrotype made. He wore a linen coat. The artist suggested that a black coat would give a better result, and suggested that Mr. Lincoln put on his (the photographer's). This he did. Mr. Lincoln sat again for Mr. Alschuler in November, 1860, in Chicago, at the request of Mr. H. C. Whitney, who furnished the above information.

along. Abe and I played around all day. Finally, we concluded to cross the creek to hunt for some partridges young Lincoln had seen the day before. The creek was swollen by a recent rain, and, in crossing on the narrow footlog, Abe fell in. Neither of us could swim. I got a long pole and held it out to Abe, who grabbed it. Then I pulled him ashore. He was almost dead, and I was badly scared. I rolled and pounded him in good earnest. Then I got him by the arms



CRAWFORD WELL.

In a field near the Crawford house is a well which is pointed out to sight-seers as one which Lincoln helped to dig. Many things about the Crawford place—fences, corn-cribs, house, barn—were built in part by Mr. Lincoln.

and shook him, the water meanwhile pouring out of his mouth. By this means I succeeded in bringing him to, and he was soon all right.

Sallie Lincoln was my sweetheart. She was about my age. I loved her and claimed her, as boys do. I suppose that was one reason for my warm regard for Abe. When the

“Then a new difficulty confronted us. If our mothers discovered our wet clothes they would whip us. This we dreaded from experience, and determined to avoid. It was June, the sun was very warm, and we soon dried our clothing by spreading it on the rocks about us. We promised never to tell the story, and I never mentioned the incident to any one until after Lincoln’s tragic end.

“Abraham Lincoln had a sister. Her name was Sallie, and she was a very pretty girl. She went to school when she could, which was not often.

“Yes, if you must know,



THE CRAWFORD HOUSE.

The house of Josiah Crawford, near Gentryville, Indiana. Here Mr. Lincoln worked by the day for several months, and his sister was a “hired girl” for Mrs. Crawford. In 1829 Mr. Lincoln cut down timber and whip-sawed it into planks for a new house which his father proposed to build; but Thomas Lincoln had decided to go to Illinois before the new house was begun, and Abraham sold his planks to Mr. Crawford, who worked them into the southeast room of his house, where relic-seekers have since cut them to pieces to make canes. This picture is made after a photograph taken before the death of Mr. and Mrs. Crawford, both of whom are shown here.

Lincoln family moved to Indiana, I was prevented by circumstances from bidding good-by to either of the children. And I never saw them again."*

All the young people went to school, Abraham chiefly to be a companion to his sister on her long walk, so the traditions say. The schools of that day in the West were hap-hazard affairs, depending upon whether some va-

grant man, with nothing better to do for the moment, wandered into the country, and offered his services. The terms were irregular, their length being decided by the time the settlers felt able to board the master and pay his small salary. The chief qualification for a schoolmaster seems to have been enough strength to keep the "big boys" in order, though one great authority affirms that pluck went "for a heap sight more'n sinnoo with boys."

Many of the itinerant masters were

Catholics—strolling Irishmen from the colony in Tennessee, or French priests from Kaskaskia. Lincoln's first teacher, Zachariah Riney, was a Catholic, though there is no record that he tried proselyting among his pupils. Of the second master to whom he went in Kentucky, Caleb Hazel, we know even less than of Riney. However, they

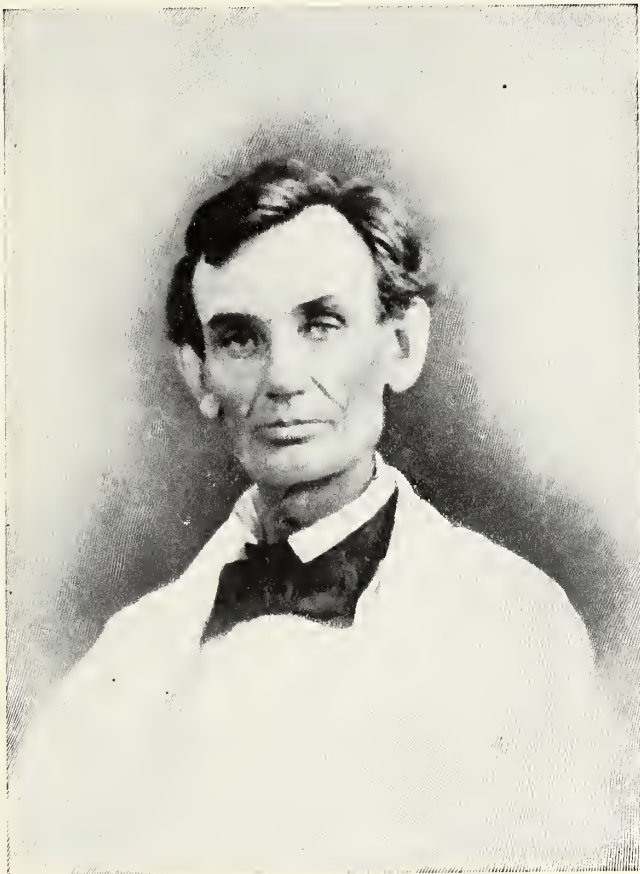
succeeded between them, in the few months Lincoln was their pupil, in teaching him to read and write. Mr. Gollaher testifies that Abraham Lincoln, in those days when he was his schoolmate, was "an unusually bright boy at school, and made splendid progress in his studies. Indeed, he learned faster than any of his schoolmates. Though so young he studied very hard. He would get

spice-wood brushes, hack them up on a log, and burn them two or three together, for the purpose of giving light by which he might pursue his studies. It was not a good light, but the best he could obtain."

Probably the boy's mother had something to do with the spice-wood illuminations. Tradition has it that Mrs. Lincoln took great pains to teach her children what she knew, and at her knee they heard all the Bible lore, fairy tales, and country legends she had been able to gather in her poor life. It is not im-

possible that she did try to devise a means of lighting her cabin at night, when her work was ended, that she might read to her children.

Besides the "A B C schools," as Lincoln called them, the only other medium of education in the country districts of Kentucky in those days was "preaching." Itinerants like the schoolmasters, the preachers, of whatever denomination, were generally uncouth



LINCOLN IN 1858.

After a faded ambrotype of Mr. Lincoln, now in the Lincoln Monument collection at Springfield, Illinois. All that is known of it is that it was taken at Beardstown in 1858. Mr. Lincoln wore a linen coat on the occasion. The picture is regarded as a good likeness of him as he appeared during the Lincoln-Douglas campaign.

* Unpublished MS. of an interview with Austin Gollaher, by D. J. Thomas.



MOUTH OF ANDERSON CREEK, WHERE LINCOLN KEPT THE FERRY-BOAT.

From a photograph taken for *McCLURE'S MAGAZINE*. This ferry, at the mouth of Anderson Creek, was first established and owned by James McDaniel, and was afterwards kept by his son-in-law James Taylor. It was the latter who hired Abraham Lincoln, about 1826, to attend the ferry-boat. As the boat did not keep him busy all the time, he acted as man-of-all-work around the farm. A son of James Taylor, Captain Green B. Taylor of South Dakota, is still alive, and remembers distinctly the months Lincoln spent in his father's employ. Captain Taylor says that Lincoln "slept upstairs" with him, and used to read "till near midnight."

and illiterate, but they administered the gospel with startling literalness, and in a thundering rhetoric which was music to the ear of the pioneer. The code of morals they taught was mainly a healthy one, though they rarely tried to persuade to righteousness for its own sake, evidently believing it more effective to frighten their hearers from evil-doing by terrifying pictures of future punishment. These men were of unquestionable sincerity and devotion, and they, no doubt, did much to keep the consciences of the pioneers awake. It is difficult to believe that they ever did much for the moral training of young Lincoln, though he certainly got his first notion of public speaking from them; and for years in his boyhood one of his chief delights was to get his playmates about him, and preach and thump until he had his auditors frightened or in tears.

THE LINCOLNS LEAVE KENTUCKY.

In 1816 a great event happened to the little boy. His father emigrated to Indiana from Knob Creek (Thomas Lincoln had re-

moved from the farm on Nolin Creek to one some fifteen miles northeast, on Knob Creek, when Abraham was four years old). "This removal was partly on account of slavery, but chiefly on account of the difficulty in land titles in Kentucky," says his son. It was due, no doubt, too, to that restless pioneer spirit, which drives even men of sober judgment continually towards the frontier, in search of a place where the conflict with nature is less severe—some spot farther on, to which a friend or neighbor has preceded, and from which he sends back glowing reports. It may be that Thomas Lincoln was tempted into Indiana by the reports of his brother Josiah, who had already settled on the Big Blue River of that State. At all events, in the fall of 1816, he started with wife and children and household stores to journey by horseback and by wagon from Knob Creek to a farm selected on a previous trip he had made. This farm, located near Little Pigeon Creek, about fifteen miles north of the Ohio River, and a mile and a half east of Gentryville, Spencer County, was in a forest so dense that the road for

the travellers had to be hewed out as they went.

"They find no beaten highway through the forest, therefore our interest is the keener. We like to hear with our mind's ear the sounding stroke of the axe as it bites the trees. We watch the chips fly; the tree quivers, shakes, and then crashes to the earth, only to be pulled aside because it obstructs the onward progress of this inveterate mover."*

To a boy of seven years, free from all responsibility, and too vigorous to feel its hardships, such a journey must have been, as William Cooper Howells, the father of the novelist, says of his own trip from Virginia to Ohio, in 1813, "a panorama of delightful novelty." Life suddenly ceased its routine, and every day brought forth new and strange scenes and adventures. Little Abraham saw forests greater than he had ever dreamed of, peopled by strange new birds and beasts, and he crossed a river so wide that it must have seemed to him like the sea. To Thomas and Nancy Lincoln the journey was probably a hard and sad

one; but to the children beside them it was a wonderful voyage into the unknown.

A NEW HOME IN INDIANA.

On arriving at the new farm an axe was put into the boy's hands, and he was set to work to help build the "half-face camp" which for a year was the home of the Lincolns, and to aid in clearing a field for corn. There were few more primitive homes in the wilderness of Indiana in 1816 than this of young Lincoln's, and there were few families, even in that day, who were forced to practise more makeshifts to get a living. The cabin which took the place of the "half-face camp" had but one room, with a loft above. For a long time there was no window, door, or floor; not even the traditional deer-skin hung before the exit, nor the oiled paper over the opening for light, nor the puncheon covering on the ground on which they trod.

The furniture was painfully primitive. Their bedstead, or, rather, bed-frame, was still made of poles held up by two outer posts, and the ends made firm by inserting

* Unpublished MS. by A. Hoosier of Vincennes, Indiana.



LINCOLN WORKING BY THE FIRELIGHT.

"At night, lying on his stomach in front of the open fireplace, with a piece of charcoal he would cipher on a broad wooden shovel. When the latter was covered on both sides, he would take his father's drawing knife or plane and shave it off clean, ready for a fresh supply of inscriptions the next day."—WILLIAM H. HERNDON, *from interview with Sarah Bush Lincoln.*

An army of a 10000 men having plundered a
 bility took so much money that when it was
 shared among them each man (had) £ 27. I demand
 how much money was taken in all

$$\begin{array}{r}
 27 \\
 \hline
 270000 \\
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 1080000
 \end{array}$$

Abraham Lincoln His Book

FRAGMENT FROM A LEAF OF LINCOLN'S EXERCISE-BOOK.

the poles in augur-holes that had been bored in a log which was a part of the wall of the cabin; skins were its chief covering. Little Abraham was not so well off as this even, his bed being a heap of dry leaves in the corner of the loft, to which he mounted by means of pegs driven into the wall. The table and chairs were of the rudest sort—rough slabs of wood in which holes were bored and legs fitted in.

The food, if coarse, was usually abundant, though sometimes the variety was painfully small. Of game there was plenty—deer, bear, pheasants, wild turkeys, duck, birds of all kinds. There were fish in the streams, and wild fruits of many kinds in the woods in the summer, and these were dried for winter use; but the difficulty of raising and milling corn and wheat was very great. Indeed, in many places in the

West, the first flour cake was a historical event.* "Corn dodger" was the every-day bread of the Lincoln household, the wheat cake being a reserved dainty for Sunday mornings.

Potatoes were the only vegetables raised in any quantity, and there were times in the Lincoln family when they were the only food on the table; a fact proved to posterity by the oft-repeated remark of Abraham to his father after the latter had asked a blessing over a dish of roasted potatoes—that they were "mighty poor blessings." Not only were potatoes all the Lincolns had for dinner sometimes, they were all they had on occasions to offer to guests; for one of their neighbors tells of calling there once

* The first flour cake made in Louisville, Kentucky, was made in 1779. The records of the city thus describe the event: "It is related that, when the first patch of wheat was raised about this place, after being ground in a rude and laborious hand-mill, it was sifted through a gauze neckerchief, belonging to the mother of the gallant man who gave us the information, as the best bolting cloth to be had. It was then shortened, as the housewife phrased it, with raccoon fat, and the whole station invited to partake of a sumptuous feast upon a flour cake."—*History of the Ohio Falls Counties*, page 174.

Abraham Lincoln
his hand and pen.
he will be good but
god knows when

LINES FROM LINCOLN'S COPY-BOOK.

These lines were written on a leaf of a copy-book in which Lincoln wrote out the tables of weights and measures and the sums in connection with them. His step-mother, Sarah Bush Lincoln, gave the leaf with a few others from the book to Mr. Herndon. It is now in the possession of J. W. Weik.

when raw potatoes, pared and washed, were passed around and eaten as apples.

The food was prepared in the rudest way, for the supply of both groceries and cooking utensils was limited. The former were



GRAVE OF NANCY HANKS LINCOLN.

The grave of Abraham Lincoln's mother is on a wooded knoll about half a mile southeast of the site of her Indiana home. Near her are buried Thomas and Betsey Sparrow, who followed the Lincolns to Indiana, and who died a few days before Mrs. Lincoln and of the same disease; and also Levi Hall and his wife, who died several years later. There are two or three other graves in the vicinity. Until 1879 the only mark about the grave of Nancy Lincoln was the names of visitors to the spot cut in the bark of the trees which shaded it; then Mr. P. E. Studebaker of South Bend, Indiana, erected the stone, and soon after a fence was purchased by a few of the leading citizens of Rockport, Indiana. The inscription on the stone runs: "Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Mother of President Lincoln, died October 5, A.D. 1818. Aged thirty-five years. Erected by a friend of her martyred son."

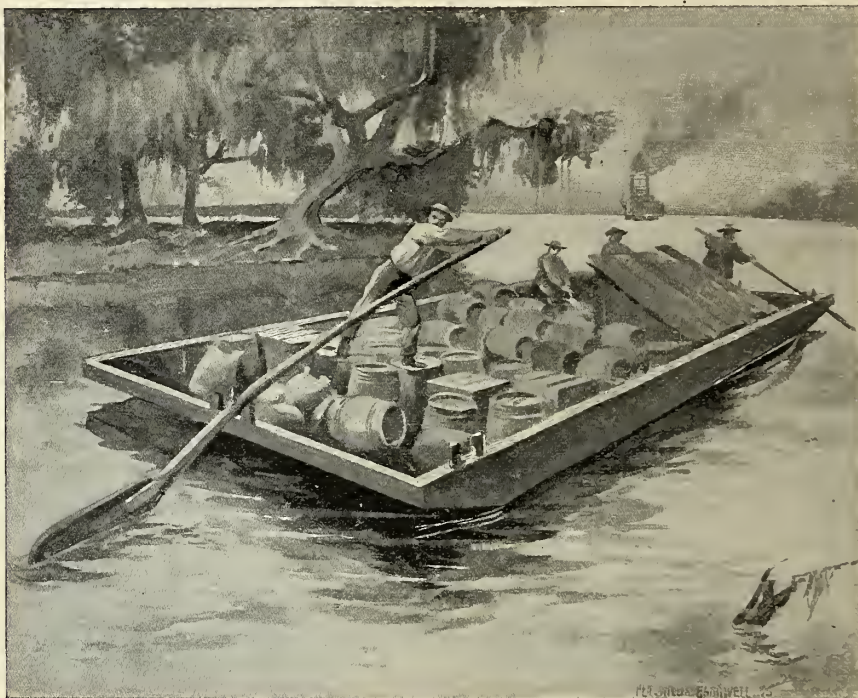
frequently wanting entirely, and as for the latter, the most important item was the Dutch oven.* "The old-fashioned deep iron skillet," says one familiar with the life of the period, "with its strong iron lid, on which were piled the red coals to bake whatever the skillet might contain for the family to eat, the crane and its pot—these were the cooking and furnishing outfit of the Lincoln household. There was no floor in the cabin, and nothing spoke of comfort, except the cheerful, blazing wood fire, which did its utmost to give a rosy hue to the bare room, which contained but rude makeshifts."

spoons, iron; the knives and forks, horn-handled.

Mrs. Lincoln and her daughters of course made their own soap and candles, and if they had cotton or wool to wear they had literally to grow it. One of the old settlers of Illinois says of her experience at this period:

"As for our clothes, we had to raise, pick, spin, and weave cotton for winter and summer. We also made linsey of wool and flax. The first indigo we had we raised. Besides that we used sumac berries, white-walnut bark, and other barks for coloring.

"Now for cotton picking. We children had to



LINCOLN AS A FLATBOAT-MAN.

An important article in the primitive kitchen outfit was the "gritter." It was made by flattening out an old piece of tin, punching it full of holes, and nailing it to a board. Upon this all sorts of things were grated, even ears of corn, in which slow way enough meal was sometimes secured for bread. Old tin made many other little contrivances besides the "gritter," and every scrap to be found was carefully saved. Most of the dishes were of pewter; the

* "A kind of flat-bottomed pot, . . . which stood upon three legs of three inches long, and had an iron lid. Into this bread or meats were put, and baked by placing it on the hearth with a quantity of coals under it and upon the lid, which was made with a rim to keep the coals upon it, and a loop handle to lift it by. It also had a bail like a pot, by which it could be hung over the fire."—*Recollections of Life in Ohio*, by WILLIAM COOPER HOWELLS, page 78.

lie before the fire and pick the seed from the cotton bolls before we could go to bed. The warmer the cotton the better it picked; so we would take a good sweat. The next day that had to be carded and spun; so some would soap the cotton, some card, and some spin; and when we would get enough spun and colored to make a dress apiece we would put it in the loom and weave it. It did not take fifteen or twenty yards to make a dress then; six or eight yards of linsey were enough for any woman."

With such difficulties in the way it is probable that Abraham wore little cotton or linsey-woolsey. His trousers were of roughly tanned deer-skin, his foot-covering a home-made moccasin, his cap a coon-skin, his coat a blouse of linsey-woolsey. But if this kind of costume had some obvious disadvantages, it was not to be despised.



JOSIAH CRAWFORD.

Among those whom Lincoln served in Indiana as "hired boy" was Josiah Crawford, a well-to-do farmer living near Gentryville. Mr. Crawford owned a copy of Weems's "Life of Washington," a precious book in those days, and Lincoln borrowed it to read. "Late in the night before going to rest he placed the borrowed book in his only bookcase, the opening between two logs of the walls of the cabin, and retired to dream of its contents. During the night it rained; the water, dripping over the 'mud-daubing' on the book, stained the leaves and warped the binding. Abe valued the book in proportion to the interest he had in the hero, and felt that the owner must value it beyond his ability to pay. It was with the greatest trepidation he took the book home and told the story, and asked how he might hope to make restitution. Mr. Crawford answered: 'Being as it is you, Abe, I won't be hard on you. Come over and shuck corn three days, and the book is yours.' Shuck corn three days and receive a hero's life! He felt that the owner was giving him a magnificent present! After reading the book he used to tell the Crawfords: 'I do not always intend to delve, grub, shuck corn, split rails, and the like.' His whole mind was devoted to books, and he declared he 'was going to fit himself for a profession.' These declarations were often made to Mrs. Crawford, who took almost a mother's interest in him, and she would ask: 'What do you want to be now?' His answer was invariably: 'I'll be President.' As he was generally teasing some of her daughters or playing a joke on some one, she would answer: 'You'd be a purty President with all your tricks and jokes. Now, wouldn't you?' He would then declare: 'Oh, I'll study and get ready, and then the chance will come, and I'll be prepared.'"

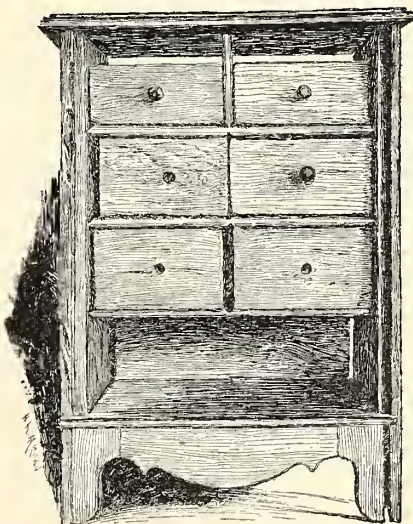
So good an authority as Governor Reynolds says of one of its articles—the linsey-woolsey shirt—"It was an excellent garment. I have never felt so happy and healthy since I put it off."

* Unpublished MS. by A. Hoosier of Vincennes, Indiana.

These "pretty pinching times," as Abraham Lincoln once described the early days in Indiana, lasted until 1819. The year before, Nancy Lincoln had died, and for many months no more forlorn place could be conceived than the bereft household; but finally Thomas Lincoln went back to Kentucky and returned with a new wife—Sally Bush Johnston, a widow with three children, John, Sarah, and Matilda. The new mother came well provided with household furniture—things unheard of before by little Abraham—"one fine bureau, one table, one set of chairs, one large clothes-chest, cooking utensils, knives, forks, bedding, and other articles." She at once made the cabin habitable, and taught the children habits of cleanliness and comfort.

ABRAHAM BECOMES A LABORER.

By this time Abraham had become an important member of the family. He was remarkably strong for his years, and the work he could do in a day was a decided advantage to Thomas Lincoln. The axe which had been put into his hand to help in making the first clearing, he had never been allowed to drop; indeed, as he says himself, "from that till within his twenty-third year he was almost constantly handling that most useful instrument." Besides, he drove the team, cut down the elm and linn brush with which the stock was often fed, learned to



CABINET MADE BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

This cabinet is now in the possession of Captain J. W. Wartman of Evansville, Indiana. It is of walnut, two feet in height, and very well put together. Thomas Lincoln is said to have aided his son in making it.



THE FIRST LINCOLN MONUMENT.

When Abraham Lincoln left Indiana, in 1830, his friend James Gentry planted in remembrance of him, near the Lincoln cabin, a cedar tree. It still stands, sturdy and strong, though it is kept stripped of twigs as high as visitors can reach.

handle the old shovel-plough, to wield the sickle, to thresh the wheat with a flail, to fan and clean it with a sheet, to go to mill and turn the hard-earned grist into flour; in short, he learned all the trades the settler's boy must know, and well enough so that when his father did not need him he could hire him to the neighbors. Thomas Lincoln also taught him the rudiments of carpentry and cabinet-making, and kept him busy some of the time as his assistant in his trade. There are houses still standing, in and near Gentryville, on which it is said he worked. The families of Lamar, Jones, Crawford, Gentry, Turnham, and Richardson all claim the honor of having employed him upon their cabins.

As he grew older he became one of the strongest and most popular "hands" in the vicinity, and much of his time was spent as a "hired boy" on some neighbor's farm. For twenty-five cents a day—paid to his father—he was hostler, ploughman, wood-chopper, and carpenter, besides helping the women with the "chores." For them, so

say the legends, he was ready to carry water, make the fire, even tend the baby. No wonder that a laborer who never refused to do anything asked of him, who could "strike with a mallet heavier blows" and "sink an axe deeper into the wood" than anybody else in the community, and who at the same time was general help for the women, never lacked a job in Gentryville.

Of all the tasks his rude life brought him, none seems to have suited him better than going to the mill. It was, perhaps, as much the leisure which was enforced on him by this trip as anything else which attracted him. The machinery was primitive, and each man waited his turn, which sometimes was long in coming. A story is told by one of the pioneers of Illinois of going many miles with a grist, and waiting so long for his turn that when it came he and his horse had eaten all the corn, and he had none to grind. This waiting with other men and boys on like errands gave an opportunity for talk and story-telling which was a great delight to Abraham.

In 1826 he added to his other accomplishments that of ferryman, being employed for some nine months at the mouth of Anderson Creek, where it joins the Ohio. This experience opened new possibilities to him, and he became ambitious to try the river as a boatman. It was a custom among the farmers of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois at this date to collect a quantity of produce, build a raft, and float down to New Orleans to sell it. Young Lincoln saw this, and wanted to try his fortune as a produce merchant. An incident of his projected trip he related once to Mr. Seward :

"Seward," he said, "you never heard, did you, how I earned my first dollar?"

"No," said Mr. Seward.

"Well," replied he, "I was about eighteen years of age, and belonged, as you know, to what they call down South the 'scrubs;' people who do not own land and slaves are nobody there; but we had succeeded in raising, chiefly by my labor, sufficient produce, as I thought, to justify me in taking it down the river to sell. After much persuasion I had got the consent of my mother to go, and had constructed a flatboat, large enough to take the few barrels of things we had gathered down to New Orleans. A steamer was going down the river. We have, you know, no wharves on the Western streams, and the custom was, if passengers were at any of the landings, they were to go out in a boat, the steamer stopping and taking them on board. I was contemplating my new boat, and wondering whether I

could make it stronger or improve it in any part, when two men with trunks came down to the shore in carriages, and looking at the different boats, singled out mine, and asked: 'Who owns this?' I answered modestly, 'I do.' 'Will you,' said one of them, 'take us and our trunks out to the steamer?' 'Certainly,' said I. I was very glad to have the chance of earning something, and supposed that each of them would give me a couple of bits. The trunks were put in my boat, the passengers seated themselves on them, and I sculled them out to the steamer. They got on board, and I lifted the trunks and put them on the deck. The steamer was about to put on steam again, when I called out, 'You have forgotten to pay me.' Each of them took from his pocket a silver half-dollar and threw it on the bottom of my boat. I could scarcely believe my eyes as I picked up the money. You may think it was a very little thing, and in these days it seems to me like a trifle, but it was a most important incident in my life. I could scarcely credit that I, the poor boy, had earned a dollar in less than a day; that by honest work I had earned a dollar. The world seemed wider and fairer before me. I was a more hopeful and thoughtful boy from that time."

Soon after this, while he was working for Mr. Gentry, the leading citizen of Gentryville, his employer decided to send his son to New Orleans with a load of produce, and chose young Lincoln to go as "bow-hand," "to work the front oars." For this trip he received eight dollars a month and his passage back as a deck passenger on a steamer.



OLD POST FORD ACROSS THE WABASH RIVER.

The route by which the Lincolns went into Illinois from Indiana is a question in dispute. Some of the acquaintances of the family still living in Indiana claim that they followed the line marked on our map (page 489). Others say that they went from Gentryville to the Old Post Ford across the Wabash. Though this road is much longer and leads across several large water-courses, it would give the travellers the advantage of a visit to Vincennes, a most important point in the State, and from there they could follow the highway between Vincennes and St. Louis as far as what is now the main line of the Illinois Central.

EARLY EDUCATION.

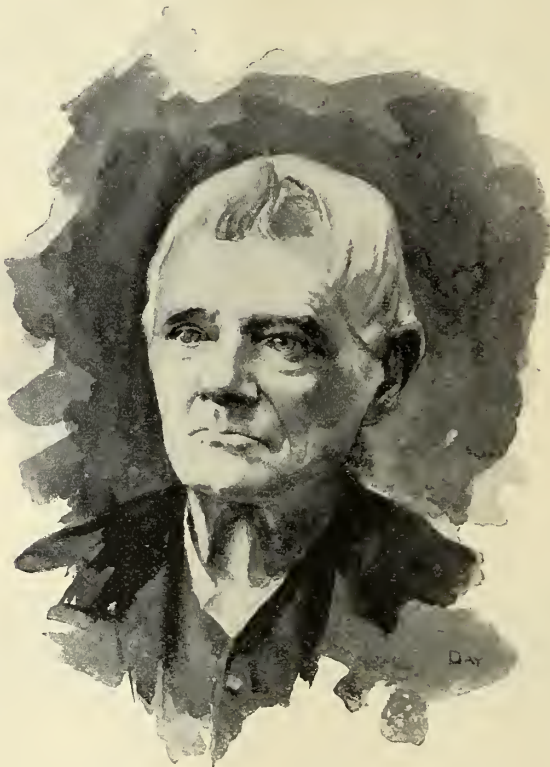
With all this hard living and hard work, Lincoln was getting in this period a desultory kind of education. Not that he received much schooling. He went "by littles," he says; "in all it did not amount to more than a year." But more or less of the schoolroom is a matter of small importance if a boy has learned to read and to think of what he reads. And that this boy had learned. His stock of books was small, but he knew them thoroughly, and they were good books to know: the Bible, Æsop's "Fables," "Robinson Crusoe," Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," a "History of the United States," Weems's "Life of Washington," and the "Statutes of Indiana." These are the chief ones we know about. He did not own them all, but sometimes had to borrow them from the neighbors, a practice which resulted in at least one casualty, for Weems's "Life of Washington" he allowed to get wet, and to make good the loss he had to pull fodder three days. No matter. The book became his then, and he could read it as he would. Fortunately he took this curious work in profound seriousness, which a wide-awake boy would hardly be expected to do to-day. Washington became an exalted figure in his imag-

ination; and he always contended later, when the question of the real character of the first President was brought up, that it was wiser to regard him as a godlike character, heroic in nature and deeds, as Weems did, than to contend that he was only a man who, if wise and good, still made mistakes and indulged in follies like other men.

In 1861, addressing the Senate of the State of New Jersey, he said :

"May I be pardoned if, upon this occasion, I mention that away back in my childhood, the earliest days of my being able to read, I got hold of a small book, such a one as few of the younger members have ever seen—Weems's 'Life of Washington.' I remember all the accounts there given of the battle-fields and struggles for the liberties of the country, and none fixed themselves upon my imagination so deeply as the struggle here at Trenton, New Jersey. The crossing of the river, the contest with the Hessians, the great hardships endured at that time, all fixed themselves on my memory more than any single Revolutionary event; and you all know, for you have all been boys, how these early impressions last longer than any others. I recollect thinking then, boy even though I was, that there must have been something more than common that these men struggled for."

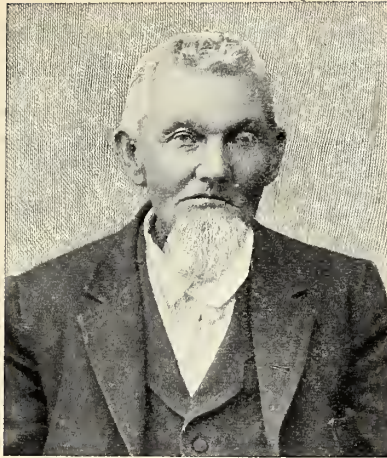
Besides these books he borrowed many. He once told a friend that he "read through every book he had ever heard of in that country, for a circuit of fifty miles." From everything he read he made long extracts, using a turkey-buzzard pen and brier-root ink. When he had no paper



DENNIS HANKS.

From a photograph in the Libby Prison Museum of Chicago, by permission of Mr. C. F. Gunther. Dennis Hanks, a cousin of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, was born in Kentucky in 1799, and was brought up by his uncle, Thomas Sparrow. The year after Thomas Lincoln moved to Indiana, Thomas Sparrow followed him, but both he and his wife died there in 1818, and Dennis became an inmate of the Lincoln household. He afterwards married one of the daughters of Sally Bush Lincoln. It was largely through his influence that the Lincolns moved into Illinois in 1830. Dennis Hanks remained in Illinois, and after Mr. Lincoln's election to the Presidency was an unsuccessful applicant for the post-office at Charleston, Coles County. To the early period of Mr. Lincoln's life he has been one of the most prolific contributors, his letters to Mr. Herndon being full of curious and valuable matter. Dennis Hanks died in October, 1892. One of his daughters, Mrs. Harriet Chapman, is still living in Charleston, Illinois.

he would write on a board, and thus preserve his selections until he secured a copy-book. The wooden fire-shovel was his usual slate, and on its back he would cipher with a charred stick, shaving it off when covered. The logs and boards in his vicinity were always filled with his figures and quotations. By night he read and worked as long as there was light, and he kept a book in the crack of the logs in his loft, to have it at hand at peep of day. When acting as ferryman, in his nineteenth year, anxious, no doubt, to get through the books of the house where he boarded, before he left the place, he read every night "till midnight," so says his room-mate.



JOSEPH GENTRY.

The only boy companion of Lincoln's youth in Indiana now living, Mr. Joseph Gentry, resides on a farm one-fourth mile west from the Lincoln farm, where he has lived about sixty years. When a boy he lived in Gentryville—a town founded by the Gentrys. He was present at the funeral services held over the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln and remembers hearing the minister say it was through the efforts of the little son of the dead woman that his services had been secured.

In his habits of reading and study the boy had little encouragement from his father, but his step-mother did all she could for him. Indeed, between the two there soon grew up a relation of touching gentleness and confidence. In one of the interviews a biographer of Mr. Lincoln sought with her before her death, Mrs. Lincoln said :

"I induced my husband to permit Abe to read and study at home, as well as at school. At first he was not easily reconciled to it, but finally he too seemed willing to encourage him to a certain extent. Abe was a dutiful son to me always, and we took particular care when he was reading not to disturb



GRAVE OF LINCOLN'S SISTER.

From a photograph taken for *McCLURE'S MAGAZINE*. Sarah, or Nancy, Lincoln was born in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, in 1807. In 1826 she married Aaron Grigsby, and a year later died. She was buried not far from Gentryville, in what is now called "Old Pigeon Cemetery." Her grave is marked by the rude stone directly over the star. The marble monument in the centre is that of her husband.

him—would let him read on and on till he quit of his own accord.”

This consideration of his step-mother won the boy's confidence, and he rarely copied anything that he did not bring it to her to read, asking her opinion of it; and often, when she did not understand it, explaining the meaning in his plain and simple language.

No newspaper ever escaped him. One man in Gentryville, a Mr. Jones, the storekeeper, took a Louisville paper, and here Lincoln went regularly to read and discuss its contents. All the men and boys of the neighborhood gathered there, and everything which the paper related was subjected to their keen, shrewd common-sense. It was not long before young Lincoln became the favorite member of the group and the one listened to most eagerly. Politics were warmly discussed by these Gentryville citizens, and it may be that sitting on the counter of Jones's grocery Lincoln even discussed slavery. It certainly was one of the live questions in Indiana at that date. For several years after her organization as a Territory, and in spite of the Ordinance of 1787, a system of thinly disguised slavery had existed; and it took a sharp struggle to bring the State in without some form of slavery. So uncertain was the result that, when decided, the word passed from mouth to mouth all over Hoosierdom, "She has come in free, she has come in free!" Even in 1820, four years after her admission as a State, the census showed one hundred and ninety slaves, nearly all of them in the southwest corner, where the Lincolns lived, and it was not, in reality, until 1821 that the State Supreme Court put an end to the question. In Illinois in 1822-1824 there was carried on one of the most violent contests between the friends and opponents of slavery which occurred before the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. The effort to secure slave labor was nearly successful. In the campaign, pamphlets *pro* and *con* literally inundated the State; the pulpits took it up; and "almost every stump in every county had its bellowing, indignant orator." So violent a commotion so near by

Thomas Lincoln married to Sarah Johnston Dec^r 1819 -
Sarah Lincoln, daughter of Tho^s. Lincoln, was married to
Aug. 18 -

Abraham Lincoln son of Tho^s. Lincoln was married to Mary Todd Nov^r 4th 1842 -
John D. Johnston was married to his second wife, Nancy Jane Williams March 5, 1851

John D. Johnston son
of John D. and Nancy
Jane Johnston was
borne April the 11. 1854

1856
1816
—
46
1856
16
—
17

Nancy Lincoln wife of Tho^s. Lincoln died October 5th 1818
Sarah daughter of Tho^s. Lincoln wife of Aaron Fryberg, died May 20th 1838 -
Thomas Lincoln died January 17th aged 73 years & 11 days -

By permission, from Herndon and Weik's "Life of Abraham Lincoln." Copyright, 1892, by D. Appleton & Co.

LINCOLN FAM

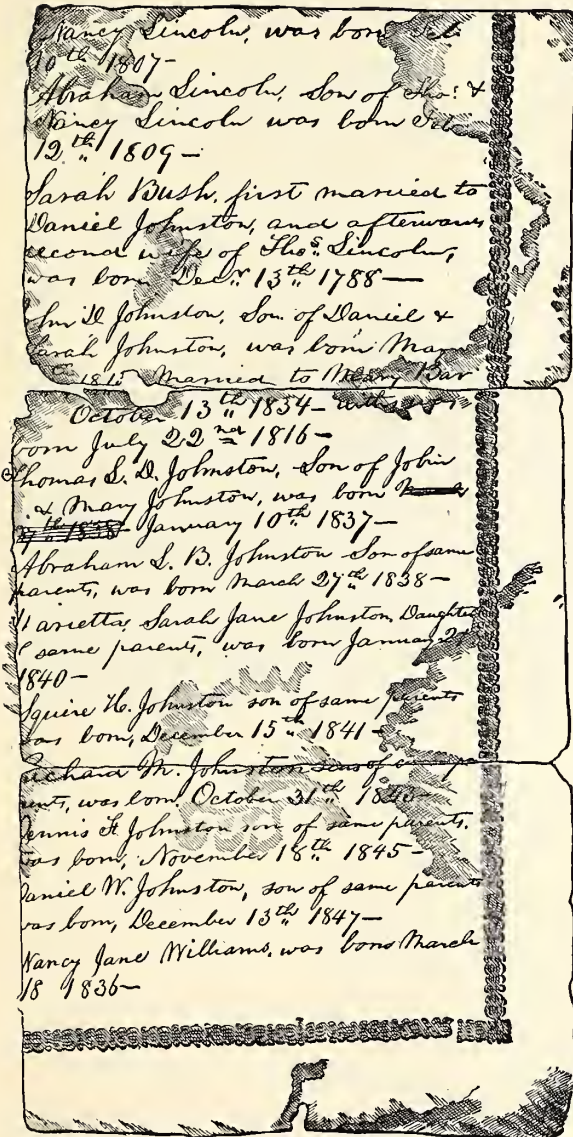
Written by Abraham Lincoln

From original in possession of

could hardly have failed to reach Gentryville.

There had been other anti-slavery agitation going on near by for several years. In 1804 a number of Baptist ministers of Kentucky started a crusade against the institution, which resulted in a hot contest in the denomination and the organization of the "Baptist Licking-Locust Association Friends of Humanity." The Rev. Jesse Head, the minister who married Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, talked freely and boldly against slavery, and one of their old friends, Christopher Columbus Graham, the man who was present at their wedding, says: "Tom and Nancy Lincoln and Sally Bush were just steeped full of Jesse Head's notions about the wrong of slavery and the rights of man as explained by Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine." In 1806 Charles Osborn began to preach "immediate emancipation" in Tennessee. Ten years later he started a paper in Ohio, devoted to the same idea, and three years after he went to Indiana. In 1821 Benjamin Lundy started, in Tennessee, the famous "Genius," devoted to the same doctrine; and in 1822, at Shelbyville, only about one hundred miles from Gentryville, was started a paper similar in its views, the "Abolition Intelligencer." At that time there were in Kentucky five or six abolition societies, and in Illinois was an organization called the "Friends of Humanity." If these things came to young Lincoln it was probably but vaguely; but some of them must have come to him, and he must have connected them with the "Speech of Mr. Pitt on the Slave Trade;" and with Merry's elegy, "The Slaves," which he had learned in his "American Preceptor;" and with the discussion given in his "Kentucky Preceptor," "Which has the Most to complain of, the Indian or the Negro?"

Young Lincoln was not only winning in these days in the Jones grocery store a reputation as a debater and story-teller, he was becoming known as a kind of backwoods orator. He could repeat with effect all the poems and speeches in his various school readers, he could imitate to perfection the wandering



FAMILY RECORD.

in his Father's Bible.

C. F. Gunther, Esq., Chicago.

preachers who came to Gentryville, and he could make a political speech so stirring that he drew a crowd about him every time he mounted a stump. The applause he won was sweet ; and frequently he indulged his gifts when he ought to have been at work — so thought his employers and Thomas his father. It was trying, no doubt, to the hard-pushed farmers, to see the men who ought to have been cutting grass or chopping wood throw down their sickles or axes to group around a boy whenever he mounted a stump to develop a pet theory or repeat with variations yesterday's sermon. In his fondness for speech-making he attended all the trials of the neighbor-

time, his months spent on the Ohio as a ferryman and his trips down the Mississippi should not be forgotten. In fact, all that Abraham Lincoln saw of men and the world outside of Gentryville and its neighborhood, until after he was twenty-one years of age, he saw on these rivers. For many years the Ohio and the Mississippi were the Appian Way, the one route to the world for the Western settlers. To preserve it they had been willing in early times to go to war with Spain or with France, to secede from the Union, even to join Spain or France against the United States if either country would insure their right to their highway. Every man of them had come to feel in the long



THOMAS LINCOLN'S HOME IN ILLINOIS.

This cabin was built by Thomas Lincoln in 1831 on Goose Nest Prairie in Coles County, Illinois, where he had taken up forty acres of land. It was situated nine miles south of Charleston on what is called Lincoln's Lane. Here Thomas Lincoln died in 1851. The cabin was occupied until 1891, when it was bought by the Lincoln Log Cabin Association. It was shown at the World's Fair in 1893.

hood, and frequently walked fifteen miles to Boonsville to attend court.

He wrote as well as made speeches, and some of his productions were even printed, through the influence of his admiring neighbors. Thus a local Baptist preacher was so struck with one of Abraham's essays on temperance, that he sent it to Ohio, where it appeared in some local paper. Another article, on "National Politics," so pleased a lawyer of the vicinity that he declared the "world couldn't beat it."

INFLUENCE OF THE RIVER LIFE.

In considering the different opportunities for development which the boy had at this

years in which the ownership of the great river was unsettled, with Benjamin Franklin, "a neighbor might as well ask me to sell my street-door." In fact, this water-way was their "street-door," and all that many of them ever saw of the world passed here. Up and down the rivers was a continual movement. Odd crafts of every kind possible on a river went by : "arks" or "sleds," with tidy cabins where families lived and where one could see the washing stretched, the children playing, the mother on pleasant days rocking and sewing ; keel-boats, which dodged in and out and turned inquisitive noses up all the creeks and bayous ; great fleets from the Alleghanies, made up of a score or more of timber rafts, and manned



INTERIOR OF LINCOLN CABIN IN ILLINOIS.

From a photograph made by W. J. Root of Chicago, for the Lincoln Log Cabin Association. Interior of cabin on Goose Nest Prairie near Charleston, Illinois, showing bedstead on which Thomas Lincoln died in 1851.

by forty or fifty rough boatmen ; "Orleans boats," loaded with flour, hogs, produce of all kinds ; pirogues, made from great trees ; "broad-horns," curious nondescripts worked by a wheel ; and, after 1812, steamboats.

All this traffic was leisurely. Men had time to tie up and tell the news and show their wares, if they found sympathetic listeners. Even the steamboats loitered as it pleased them. They knew no schedule. They stopped anywhere to let passengers off. They tied up wherever it was convenient to wait for fresh wood to be cut and loaded, or for repairs to be made. Waiting for repairs seems, in fact, to have absorbed a great deal of the time of these early steamers. They were continually running on to "sawyers," or "planters," or "wooden islands," and they blew up with a regularity which was monotonous. Even as late as 1842, when Charles Dickens made the trip down the Mississippi, he was gravely recommended a great many times to keep as far aft as possible, "because the steamboats generally blew up forward."

It was this varied river life that Abraham Lincoln came into contact with while a ferryman and boatman. Who can believe that

date, and there young Lincoln saw life at its intensest.

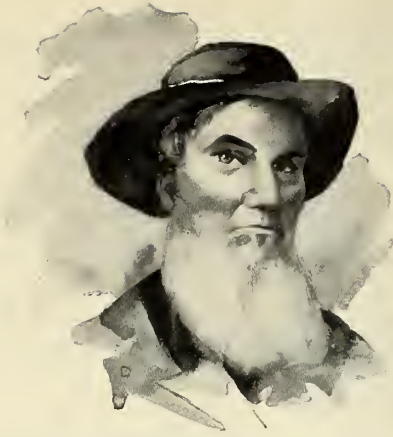
AMUSEMENTS OF HIS LIFE.

If his struggle for both livelihood and education was rough and hard, his life was not without amusements. At home the rude household was overflowing with life. There was Abraham and his sister, his step-brother and two step-sisters, and Dennis Hanks,



SITE OF THOMAS LINCOLN'S ILLINOIS CABIN.

From a photograph taken in September, 1895, for this magazine. The Goose Nest Prairie Cabin, as this home of Thomas Lincoln is called, was taken down in 1891. The only marks of the site are the two trees which formerly shaded the house, the rough outdoor cellar shown at the right, and the heap of dirt and stones of the foundation.



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JOHN HANKS.

The son of Joseph Hanks, with whom Thomas Lincoln learned the carpenter's trade, and a cousin of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. John Hanks lived with Thomas Lincoln in Indiana, from about 1823 to 1827, then returned to Kentucky, and from there emigrated to Illinois. It was largely through his influence that Thomas Lincoln and Dennis Hanks went to Sangamon County in 1830. When Mr. Lincoln first left home he and John Hanks worked together. In 1831 they made a trip to New Orleans on a flatboat. It was John Hanks who, in 1860, accompanied Governor Oglesby to the old Lincoln farm in Macon County, to select the rails Lincoln had split, and it was he who carried them into the convention of the Republican party of Illinois which nominated Lincoln as its candidate. John Hanks was an illiterate man, being able neither to read nor write, but he was honest and kindly, and his reminiscences of Mr. Lincoln's early life, gathered by Mr. Herndon and others, are regarded by all who knew him as trustworthy. After Mr. Lincoln's election to the Presidency, he desired an Indian agency; but his lack of even a rudimentary education made it impossible to give it to him.

whom bad fortune had made an inmate of the Lincoln home—quite enough to plan sports and mischief and keep time from growing dull. Thomas Lincoln and Dennis Hanks were both famous story-tellers, and the Lincolns spent many a cozy evening about their cabin fire, repeating the stories they knew.

Of course the boys hunted. Not that Abraham ever became a true sportsman; indeed he seems to have lacked the genuine sporting instinct, as his own story of his exploits shows: "A few days before the completion of his eighth year, in the absence of his father, a flock of wild turkeys approached the new log cabin; and Abraham with a rifle-gun, standing inside, shot through a crack and killed one of them. He has never since pulled the trigger on any larger game."*

* This exploit is confirmed by Dennis Hanks, who turns it, as is usual with him, so as to get in a word for his own superior prowess. "No doubt about A. Lincoln's killing the turkey. He done it with his father's rifle, made by William Lutes of Bullitt County, Kentucky. I have killed a hundred deer with her myself; turkeys too numerous to mention."

He went swimming in the evenings; went fishing with the other boys in the fishing pool, and caught chubs and suckers enough to delight any boy; he wrestled, jumped, or ran races at the noon rests.

The sports he preferred were those which brought men together: the spelling-school, the husking-bee, the "raising;" and of all these he was the life by his wit, his stories, his good-nature, his doggerel verses, his practical jokes, and by a rough kind of politeness—for even in Indiana in those times there was a notion of politeness, and one of Lincoln's schoolmasters had even given "lessons in manners." Lincoln seems to have profited to a degree by them; for Mrs. Crawford, at whose home he worked some time, declares that he always "lifted his hat and bowed" when he made his appearance.

There was, of course, a rough gallantry among the young people; and Lincoln's old comrades and friends in Indiana have left many tales of how he "went to see the girls;" of how he brought in the biggest back-log and made the brightest fire; then, of how, "sitting around" it, watching the way the sparks flew, the young folks told their fortunes. He helped pare apples, shell corn, and crack nuts. He took the girls to meeting and to spelling-school, although he



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JUDGE JOHN PITCHER.

A lawyer of Rockport, Indiana, at the time the Lincolns lived near Gentryville. An essay of Mr. Lincoln's, composed when he was about nineteen, was submitted to Mr. Pitcher, who declared the "world couldn't beat it," and he seems to have taken a kindly interest in the author from that time forward, lending him books freely from his law office. Mr. Pitcher was still living in 1889 in Mt. Vernon, Indiana, having reached the age of ninety-three years. His reminiscences of the boyhood of Lincoln are embodied in Herndon's "Life."

was not often allowed to take part in the spelling-match, for the one who "chose first" always chose "*Abe Lincoln*," and that was equivalent to winning, as the others knew that "he would stand up the longest."

The nearest approach to sentiment at this time of which we know, is a story he once told to an acquaintance in Springfield. It was a rainy day, and he was sitting with his feet on the wood-sill, his eyes on the street, watching the rain. Suddenly he looked up and said :

"Did you ever write out a story in your mind? I did when I was a little codger. One day a wagon with a lady and two girls and a man broke down near us, and while they were fixing up, they cooked in our kitchen. The woman had books and read us stories, and they were the first I ever had heard. I took a great fancy to one of the girls; and when they were gone I thought of her a great deal, and one day when I was sitting out in the sun by the house I wrote out a story in my mind. I thought I took my father's horse and followed the wagon, and finally I found it, and they were surprised to see me. I talked with the girl and persuaded her to elope with me; and that night I put her on my horse, and we started off across the prairie. After several hours we came to a camp; and when we rode up we found it was the one we had left a few hours before, and we went in. The next night we tried again, and the same thing happened—the horse came back to the same place; and then we concluded that we ought not to elope. I stayed until I had persuaded her father to give her to me. I always meant to write that story out and publish it, and I began once; but I concluded it was not much of a story. But I think that was the beginning of love with me."*

EARLY SORROWS.

His life had its tragedies as well as its touch of ro-

* Interview with Mr. T. W. S. Kidd of Springfield, Illinois, editor of "The Morning Monitor."

mance—tragedies so real and profound that they gave dignity to all the crudeness and poverty which surrounded him, and quickened and intensified the melancholy temperament he had inherited from his mother. Away back in 1816, when Thomas Lincoln had started to find a farm in Indiana, bidding his wife be ready to go into the wilderness on his return, Nancy Lincoln had taken her boy and girl to a tiny grave, that of her youngest child; and the three had there said good-by to a little one whom the children had scarcely known, but for whom the mother's grief was so keen that the boy never forgot the scene. Two years later he saw his father make a green pine box and put his dead mother into it, and he saw her buried not far from their cabin, almost without prayer. Young as he was, it



GRAVE OF THOMAS LINCOLN.

From a photograph made in September, 1895, for this magazine. Shiloh Cemetery, in which Thomas Lincoln is buried, is about three and a half miles from the Lincoln homestead. The church in the corner of the picture is called the Shiloh Church. The inscription on the monument reads: "Thomas Lincoln, Father of the Martyred President. Born January 6, 1778; died January 15, 1851."

is said that it was his efforts which brought a parson from Kentucky, three months later, to preach the sermon and conduct the service which seemed to the child a necessary honor to the dead.* As sad as the death of his mother had been was that of his only sister, Sarah. Married to Aaron Grigsby in 1826, she had died a year and a half later in child-birth, a death which to her brother must have seemed a horror and a mystery.

* It still happens frequently in the mountain districts of Tennessee that the funeral services are not held until months after the burial. A gentleman who has lived much in the South tells a story of a man marrying a second wife at a respectable interval after the death of his first, but the funeral of the first taking place *after* the wedding of the second.

(To be continued.)

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Apart from these family sorrows there was all the crime and misery of the community—all of which came to his ears and awakened his nature. He even saw in those days one of his companions go suddenly mad. The young man never recovered his reason, but sank into idiocy. All night he would croon plaintive songs, and Lincoln himself tells how, fascinated by this mysterious malady, he used to rise before daylight to cross the fields and listen to this funeral dirge of the reason. In spite of the poverty and rudeness of his life the depth of his nature had not been blunted. He could feel intensely, and his imagination was quick to respond to the touch of mystery.

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